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The Week at Washington

On December 6 the house passed the pension appropriation bill, carrying \$139,000,000, without a word of debate. According to the Associated press reports of that day bills were passed to readjust the time for holding court in the western judicial district of Texas; to confer jurisdiction upon the circuit court and district courts of South Dakota in certain Indian cases; to create a new division of the western judicial district of Missouri; to incorporate the Society of Military Surgeons; to increase the maximum period in which live stock can be confined in cars without unloading from twenty-eight to forty hours; to authorize the construction of a railroad bridge across the Missouri river at Oacoma, Lyman county, South Dakota; to construct a bridge across the Missouri river within five miles north of the Kaw river, Kansas; to grant right-of-way for telegraph and telephone lines in Alaska, to increase the size of homesteads in Alaska from eighty to 320 acres; to set aside certain lands in South Dakota as a public park; for the relief of certain settlers upon the Wisconsin Central railroad and The Dalles military road grants; to incorporate the general educational board; defining what shall constitute and providing for assessments on oil mining claims, and fixing the punishment for the larceny of horses, cattle and other live stock in Indian Territory.

It was announced on December 6 that it is the intention of President Roosevelt to visit the west and he will arrange his plans so as to enable him to participate in the opening of the St. Louis exposition on April 30 next.

On December 8 it was reported from Washington that the ways and means committee of the house has reported favorably on the resolution to adjourn from December 20 to January 5.

The president sent the following nominations to the senate on December 8: Albert B. Anderson, United States judge, district of Indiana. Second secretary embassy at Rome, Leonard M. Thomas of Pennsylvania. Pension agent for Nebraska and Iowa, Richard P. Clarkson at Des Moines, Ia.

On December 8 the senate adopted all the committee amendments to the immigration bill, with the exception of one prescribing an educational test, and also the action of the commission in striking out section 36, prohibiting the sale of intoxicants within the capitol building.

On the same day Senator Nelson introduced a joint resolution for an amendment to the constitution so as to give congress the power to control trusts, and also a bill to amend the Sherman anti-trust law by more stringent provisions. The provision for an amendment to the constitution was as follows:

"Congress shall have power to define, regulate, prohibit or dissolve trusts, monopolies or combinations, whether existing in the form of a corporation or otherwise; congress shall have power to license, regulate and control all corporations engaged in trade, commerce or other business among the several states or with foreign nations."

The bill for the amendment of the Sherman law makes all mergers or combinations in restraint of trade illegal, and provides punishment of the offense by a fine of \$10,000 or imprisonment for one year, or both, against each person engaged in the combination. The bill also prohibits combina-

tion in restraint of trade and all attempts to monopolize any part of the trade of the several states or territories, providing a fine of \$50,000 or imprisonment for a year in each case. Corporations engaged in interstate commerce are required to file with the interstate commerce commission each year a statement of their business and also a statement giving the names of persons to whom stock was originally issued and the prices paid for it.

A remarkable tribute to the memory of ex-Speaker Thomas B. Reed was paid by the house on December 8 when it adjourned out of respect to the dead statesman. It was reported that for the house to take action on the death of a former member had only three precedents in history, namely, deaths of Benton, Blaine and Alexander H. Stephens, when the house adopted resolutions and adjourned out of respect to their memories. It was decided to follow these precedents in the case of Mr. Reed.

The French reciprocity treaty came up for consideration in the senate on December 8. Senator Cullom, who is chairman of the senate committee on foreign relations, called up the treaty for the purpose of securing an order for the printing of documents bearing on the agreement and gave notice that he would ask the senate to take up the treaty at an early day for the purpose of disposing of it. The action met opposition from Messrs. Aldrich, Hoar, Lodge and Depew.

On the same day the senate committee on appropriations decided to report the house measure appropriating \$50,000 for the anthracite strike

commission. The bill will be amended to provide that officers of the government on the commission shall not receive double compensation, but provision will be made for their expenses.

A rumor is in circulation in official quarters in Washington that Justice Shiras of the supreme court will soon retire and that his place will be taken by William H. Taft, the chairman of the Philippine commission. In this event, it is supposed that Gen. Luke S. Wright will succeed Governor Taft in the Philippines.

On December 9 Luke E. Wright appeared before the senate committee on the Philippines and urged the passage of the bill reducing the duty on all products shipped from the Philippines to this country to 25 per cent of the Dingley rates. He also thought Chinese laborers should be allowed to come into the islands. Governor Wright also supported the bill for reform in the Philippine currency.

Mr. Wright said that in his opinion the tariff of 75 per cent, which now obtains on all products shipped from the Philippines to the United States really amounts to a prohibition. He pleaded for larger and more liberal trade relations with the islands and said that the ships that bring sugar and tobacco to this country should take back American products.

The senate discussed the immigration bill on December 9, adopting a number of amendments. It is said that the provision in the bill prohibiting the sale of liquor in the capitol building caused some criticism of the house for putting it in the bill, but the provision was not stricken out.

On the same day a message from the president, transmitting the papers in the Plus fund case and the report of the governor of Porto Rico, were (Continued on Page 15.)

Subscribers' Advertising Department

Under this department heading subscribers to The Commoner may insert advertisements at the rate of 6 cents per word per insertion. All advertisements must conform to the same general style of appearance. By making use of this department subscribers may obtain results not obtainable through other mediums. Real estate, rare coins, stamps, recipes, exchanges, wants, etc., may be advertised under this department, each advertisement being placed under its appropriate headings. One subscriber may have a rare book he would exchange for an article possessed by another. This department will afford a medium

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